

BULLER TRIES IT ONCE MORE.

GENERAL WAR NEWS.
Report That His Army Has Again Crossed the Tugela.

IS RECONNOITERING.

Be Sent a Force West Along the River Last Tuesday.

MORE CASUALTIES.

War Office Announces That 216 Men Were Captured.

SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

Buller May Be Making a Wider Detour to the West.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER,
SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Friday, Feb. 2.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company)—Plenty of rumors were circulating in London yesterday, but of actual news from the seat of war there was little. In the House of Commons and elsewhere it was reported that General Buller had crossed the Tugela at three places and that a hot engagement was proceeding.

An afternoon paper, which so far has not distinguished itself by its enterprise in collecting war news, was the first to announce the report. It spread rapidly, but neither the War Office, nor the newspapers with special correspondents at the front had received any confirming authority up to 2 o'clock this morning.

Some color was given to the possibility of the rumor possessing some truth by the arrival of a telegram from a trustworthy source of the report that General Buller did say to his troops on Sunday last that he hoped to reach Ladysmith within a week.

The War Office, as will be remembered, denied having any knowledge of General Buller's movements after his statement.

The latest intelligence from Spearman's Camp, which is dated Tuesday, says that Trichard's Drift, where Warren crossed, is being watched by a force of cavalry, with guns, and that a strong reconnaissance had been made in the direction of Horner's Spur. The latter is west of the town, where General Warren recently crossed, and the report that it is worth while to send a body of mounted men there may indicate an attempt to make a turning movement with a wider detour than that which was recently frustrated. Such detour by way of Action House might lead the British forces safely past Ladysmith, although it is a dangerous operation with the Boers as strong on their right flank.

If Buller really intends risking, or has risked, another attack on the Boer right flank, it is considered by the best authorities here that he is convinced that if he cannot break through there that he can break through nowhere.

On Saturday night a force of fighting around Spion Kop, the weak part of the Boer position may have been discovered, and Sir Redvers, having concentrated his troops to the southward, may believe that an attack on that direction, delivered in force, will succeed where an assault from two sides on Spion Kop failed.

From other parts of the field, while General Kelly-Kenny, in Cape Colony, is preparing for an advance by repeating the railway bridge at Theba, the Boers at Stormberg are busy building a robust emplacement the line from Steenberg, about which General Kelly-Kenny probably will advance if he and General Gordon make no further moves.

Reports of Maketshwa being reduced are growing in number. There seems to be a belief in some well-informed circles that Colonel Baden-Powell and Colonel Plumer have joined hands and that the reports which came some time ago through Pretoria are true.

Government's Failure.

As to the work of Parliament, it is but reflecting the general sentiments of the people of Great Britain to say that its course has caused the greatest dissatisfaction. It is an undoubted fact that its futile debates have made a worse impression in financial circles than all the other victories combined. Men are solidly in agreement that Parliament was called together by the Government who had no real opposition policy.

Charles Williams, the best posted war expert of the Morning Leader, takes the positive view.

"Just as one man has given birth to another, so last night we had news all over town that Buller had again crossed the Tugela, this time at three points, and had been fighting since early morning. Up till midnight the War Office had heard nothing of all this and, of course, did not know.

"There are several things about it. For one, he could not attack on the main line of country, for the enemy, we know, has already reoccupied the fortified heights in case he should try, and sent the parties cover in the dip below the big hill."

"Moreover, if he chose another identity for crossing, he would have had to move not his men only, but his material and ammunition. That is not done in such a country asушки. That Buller, in spite of his losses at one or two particular points, is going to have another try, and that soon, also, without guessing, for him to cross the Ladysmith garrison, whatever cheery words come out of him."

There is great speculation as to whether Buller has renewed his attack. In the absence of death of news, not a single London paper can do more than surmise, some one way, some another.

Naturally, anxiety is growing to the same nervous pitch as ten days ago, when Buller was fighting at Spion Kop. No news from the front, but hourly expectancy of great news, tells the story.

The War Office's final conclusion is that the British essentials at Spion Kop are being unmoved; the names of 215 missing men of various regiments, including 13 members of the Lancashire Fusiliers,

NATIONAL REPORT.

Spearman's Camp, Natal, Tuesday, Jan. 30.—There is an optimistic feeling in all ranks.

The natives persist in asserting that General Joubert was killed by a shell outside of Ladysmith.

JOUBERT ALIVE.

Hoof Langer, Ladysmith, Tuesday, Jan. 30.—All is quiet here. The "Long Tom" occasionally fire on Ladysmith. The deaths of Ladysmith from fever and other causes must be enormous, but we can clearly see them burying corpses daily.

General Joubert went to the Upper Tugela yesterday.

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CECIL RHODES BUSY.

WILL ERECT A COLUMN TO COMMENORATE THE SIEGE.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Friday, Feb. 2.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company)—This dispatch, from its special correspondent, is published in the Daily Telegraph:

Kimberley, Sunday, by telegraph to Medell River, Monday.—Although there has been a lull in the bombardment, shells were falling over Beaconsfield made matters last evening. Several hours were struck, but no one was hurt.

Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Baden-Powell are both well. Mr. Rhodes is busy on schemes for local improvements and is presenting them with the greatest energy. He is now planning a new road on a high and pretty place. Hundreds of natives are now leaving the site. It is intended to erect a column commemorating the siege.

Kimberley, Tuesday, All has been quiet this morning.

CO-OPERATION IN CHINA.

Four Parlours Actively Proceeding Among European Cabinets.

London, Feb. 2.—The Daily Telegraph has the following dispatch from Vienna:

"Four parlours are actively proceeding among the European Cabinets concerning co-operation in China. It appears quite



THE MEN BURIED HERE DIED IN THE HOSPITAL AT WYNBERG OF WOUNDS RECEIVED AT THE BATTLE OF BELMONT ON NOVEMBER 23.

enemy are still constructing trenches and defensive works opposite Beaconsfield.

ROAD WAS CLEAR.

Spearman's Camp, Tuesday, Jan. 29.—Lord Lympstone's reconnoitering in the direction of the Tugela found the road clear. The enemy was not to be seen.

BRITAIN'S GREAT ARMY.

London, Feb. 2, 4 p. m.—Mr. Wyndham's remarkable declaration in the House of Commons that Gen'l. C. R. Buller will face a fortnight 18,000 regulars in South Africa, 1,000 Canadians and Australians and 200 South African volunteers, is received with wonderment. Of this total of 21,000 troops, with 62 guns, all are now in the execution of about 15,000 that are official. Beyond comparison is the force of the Great Britain has ever put into the field. At the end of the Crimean War she had numbered a strength of 20,000 men. Wellington, at Waterloo, had 20,000.

These rumors grew out of dispatches from the front reporting Buller as saying to his men that they would be in Ladysmith within a week. It is evident from this and from the various other major statements passed by the censor that Buller intends making another attack.

Either he is determined to make another desperate attempt to retrieve his lost prestige or he is being urged on by the military authorities in London to push ahead at all cost to relieve Ladysmith, which is in a most desperate condition. Scarcely any one in London has much hope that this renewed assault will be successful.

The Morning Post says:

"The enemy are still with common sense, they will place outposts on the hills and keep back their main body until they see the direction of Buller's movement; then they will quickly bring up the main body and extemporize what defensive works they have not yet been able to make. The general tone of the neutrering papers is that the Boers will not attack the British. Roughly speaking, our 20,000 are in the front, and 10,000 will have been lost and more will show up in Ladysmith."

Speaking to these 20,000 are those who have not yet been in action. He adds:

"Gen'l. Murray was one of the last to leave. I saw him to-day. I told him, 'I hope you will not be the last to leave.' He said, 'I am not afraid of being taken by surprise. My division is the strongest in the army. We are well prepared.'

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